

# Tourism Advisory Board Meeting Agenda / Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, August 23 – 9:30 am

**Meeting Call to Order:** Jason Gaffney – 10:12 am

**Roll Call: Present** - Ross Silkman, Karen Hess, Jason Gaffney, Jeff Butcher

**Absent** - Judy Heinmiller, John Hunt

**Also Present** - Tanya Carlson, Jerry Lapp

**Approval of excused / unexcused absences:** Hess motioned for unexcused absences for both Heinmiller and Hunt. Butcher seconded; all in favor.

**\*Approval of Agenda:** Gaffney motioned to amend the agenda to add music on the dock and shuttle for events under old business. Butcher seconded; all in favor of amendment. All in favor of amended agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** 7/19 – Butcher motioned to approve July minutes, Hess seconded; all in favor.

**Public Comments:** N/A

**Chair Report:** *2013 Cruise Ship Calendar*

Gaffney included the preliminary cruise calendar for 2013. American Spirit is coming back. BackRoads is still in play. Carlson would like to sell BackRoads merchandise. Carlson is planning on visiting cruise lines again next January. Sitka is still working on BackRoads but not quite to the level Haines has been working on it.

Hess is concerned about the small boats including the American Spirit that ties up to the Lightering Float. They push the fast ferry over to the small boat harbor. This makes the fisherman angry and recreational boaters angry. Hess feels that the American Spirit should tie up to the front of the PC Dock. She feels that the borough should lease the Klukwan dock to accommodate these days

**New Business:** *Candidates for Empty Seat*

There were two applications submitted for the open seat; Barbara Mulford and Rhonda Hinson. Hess feels that with Barbara's background she would bring the most to the table. She also feels that Barbara is very on top of things and always asking questions, analyzing situations and thinking outside the box. Gaffney motioned to approve Mulford for the open seat, Butcher seconded; all in favor.

*AMHS – Mayor Scott Request for Comments on Updated Proposal*

Mayor requested for TAB to take a look at the proposed ferry schedule and comment on the changes. TAB is in agreement that Haines needs to keep a regular day boat. Gaffney will touch base with the Mayor.

**Old Business:**

*Election of President / Vice President*

No election today until new member joins the group.

*Letter of Support for Borough Lease of Klukwan Dock*

Gaffney mentioned that the verbiage of the letter needs to be adjusted. No quorum is met with this subject because of Hess's conflict of interest. Hess believes that the fast ferry does not benefit financially from this so therefore has no conflict of interests. Gaffney believes that because of the view of tourism and the fast ferry in the public that it should remain a conflict of interest. Lapp also believes that there is no conflict of interest. Gaffney will send an email to TAB and have TAB members weigh in via email to make changes to the letter in time for the Assembly Meeting.

*Letter of Support for State of Alaska vs EPA Lawsuit*

Hess moves that TAB submit Gaffney's letter of support to the states lawsuit, Butcher seconded; all in favor.

*Shuttle Contract to Include Events*

There has been discussion of including events transportation with the cruise shuttle contract. The Manager has agreed that it would be a good idea. The excess funds would not come from the cruise ship head tax funds. Silkman believes that this is very good idea and very important for the town to recognize its need. Gaffney motions that TAB writes a letter of support for the borough to include events in the shuttle contract, Hess seconded. Butcher believes that he has a conflict of interest in this. Carlson explained that she adopted Adam's itinerary which had nothing to do with the Halsingland, therefore no conflict of interest. All in favor of the motion.

*Music on Dock Subsidy*

Hess is in favor of music on the dock and is in favor of subsidizing the music so no soliciting occurs. Carlson explained that the group playing on the dock this year was not soliciting funds. Lapp also felt that type of music needs to be taken into consideration, no really loud music. Gaffney feels that this should be subsidized out of the tourism budget. Gaffney motioned to draft a letter to the Manager in Mayor in favor of a line item being added to the tourism budget for music on the pier, Hess seconded; all in favor.

**Directors Update:**

*Trip Advisor*

Our Trip Advisor sponsorship goes live next week

*Spring TIA Yukon Conference*

Silkman asked if Carlson had started to look around for places to stay. Carlson said she had already contacted all of the downtown locations. Last time they were in Haines there were around 80 participants, we may get more this year.

*WACVB*

Received a scholarship for Tammy to attend the WACVB Annual Convention in Eugene. This will be a good a learning experience for the Tammy as she has never been to any tourism conference.

**Board Comments:** N/A

**Set Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, September 27, 2012 - 9:30 am

Assembly Chambers, Safety Building

Hess motioned to adjourn, Butcher seconded; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.